

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:ARTHOMPSON:DJW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XA, OAU, AO, YO, UR, US

SUBJECT:BRIEFING GIVEN YUGOSLAV CHARGE ON ANGOLA PROBLEM

1. YUGOSLAV CHARGE PETKOVIC CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (AF) MULCAHY JANUARY 14 FOR BRIEFING ON ANGOLA DEVELOPMENTS. MULCAHY SET SCENE AT SOME LENGTH, EXPLAINED TRIBAL REALITIES IN ANGOLA AND MINORITY STATUS OF MPLA (REPRESENTING ONLY 25 TO 30 PERCENT OF POPULATION), AND EMPHASIZED THAT WE ARE NOT AGAINST THAT ORGANIZATION AS SUCH BUT WERE AGAINST THE MASSIVE AND UNPRECEDENTED SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. WE WERE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THIS TOTAL DEPARTURE FROM THE MOSCOW AGREEMENT OF 1972 AND WE COULD NOT STAND BY IDLY. MULCAHY SPELLED OUT EXTENT OF ESCALATION OF MPLA MILITARY FORCES BROUGHT ABOUT BY SOVIETS IN ONE YEAR'S TIME.

2. MULCAHY DESCRIBED USUAL AFRICAN PATTERN OF ACHIEVING CONSENSUS. UNFORTUNATELY, RECENT OAU SUMMIT HAD BEEN DEPARTURE FROM THAT PATTERN, HE NOTED. MULCAHY PASSED ON STORY FROM ADDIS ABABA THAT OAU MINISTERS HAD IN FACT BEEN CLOSE TO REACHING COMPROMISE RESOLUTION WHEN IDI AMIN

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SUDDENLY ANNOUNCED SESSION HAD COME TO AN END WITHOUT REACH-

ING AGREEMENT. US VIEW WAS THAT OAU WOULD MAKE ANOTHER TRY

TO WORK OUT A POSITION ON ANGOLA. PETKOVIC SAID YUGOSLAVS
AGREED WITH THIS EXPECTATION.

3. PETKOVIC APPEARED CONCERNED OVER WHAT HE FOUND TO BE
US FOCUS ON FACT THAT SOVIETS' INVOLVEMENT WAS OCCURRING
8,000 MILES AWAY FROM THEIR BORDERS; DID THIS MEAN US
WOULD HAVE BEEN ANY LESS CONCERNED ABOUT INSTANCES OF
SOVIETS INVOLVING THEMSELVES AT SOME POINT CLOSER TO HOME?
MULCAHY SAID FACT WAS SIMPLY THAT SOVIETS HAD NEVER BEFORE
COME INTO SUB-SAHARA AFRICA IN MASSIVE OPERATION AND THIS
WAS VERY DISTURBING DEVELOPMENT.

4. PETKOVIC MADE LOW-KEY STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF NETO,
WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS AUTHENTIC NATIONALIST AND FREQUENT
VISITOR TO YUGOSLAVIA. NETO HAS LONG FOUGHT FOR ANGOLAN
INDEPENDENCE, PETKOVIC CONTINUED, AND ANGOLA WILL NOT BE-
COME SOVIET SATELLITE JUST BECAUSE IT RECEIVES SOVIET AID.
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